

WYOMING



VOL. 25 NO. 7 JULY 1988

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Apr '88	May '88
Labor Force	229,766	233,057
Employment	214,820	220,013
Unemployment	14,946	13,044
Rate (Raw)	6.5	5.6
Rate (S.A.)	5.8	5.7
Mining Hourly Wage	\$14.98	\$14.45
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	44.2	42.7
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.4	5.6
Mining Hourly Wage	\$12.58	\$12.53
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.8	42.4
Consumer Price Index All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	117.1	117.5
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.9	+3.9
S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted		

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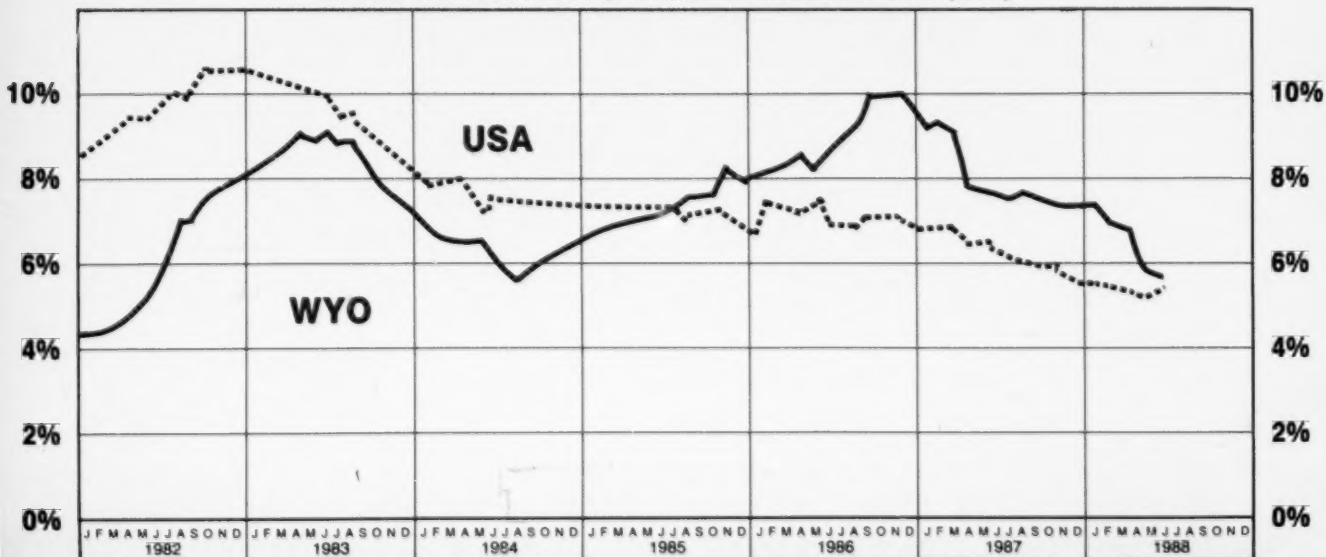
- Counties with Fluctuations of 300 or More Workers
- ACCRA Cost of Living Index
- Bureau of Labor Statistics Plans Industrial Code Revision

U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 5.6 PERCENT

In the nation in May both the total number of unemployed persons and the unemployment rate, which had been drifting downward since last fall, edged upward to their March levels. About 6.8 million were unemployed in May, 5.6 percent of the civilian labor force, seasonally adjusted. This compares to 6.3 percent a year ago and 5.4 percent in April, a 14 year low.

Most of the over-the-month increase in unemployment occurred among adult men, whose unemployment rate rose 0.3 percent to 4.9 percent. The rate for adult women (4.9 percent), teenagers (15.6 percent), whites (4.7 percent), blacks (12.4 percent), and Hispanics (9.0 percent) all were little changed over the month.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT DOWN DRAMATICALLY TO 5.7 PERCENT

The statewide unemployment rate continued to drop sharply, for the fourth month in a row, to 5.6 percent, unadjusted. This was the lowest for May since 1982 when the rate was 5.3 percent. The Wyoming seasonally adjusted rate was 5.7 percent, down from 5.8 percent in April and 8.6 percent a year ago.

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE CONTINUES DOWN FROM A YEAR AGO

While the U.S. civilian labor force continued to expand in all industrial categories, the Wyoming labor force continued to shrink. On the national level services gained 1.2 million workers annually followed by trade, 715,000, and manufacturing, 506,000. Other gains were registered in government, 391,000; construction, 274,000; wholesale trade, 273,000; transportation & public utilities, 206,000; finance, insurance and real estate, 101,000; and mining was up only 21,000 workers.

At 233,057 the May Wyoming labor force was up seasonally from April but contracted 6.0 percent from a year ago. Wyoming's employed workers, at 220,013, was up 2.4 percent from April but down 3.1 percent from the May 1987 level of 227,090.

In May, most areas of the state, 20 of the 23 counties, reflected the annual statewide labor force downturn. On the bright side, throughout the state slight annual employment gains were noted in manufacturing, services, and federal government. Mining, in the oil & gas extraction sector, indicated a sharp annual gain of about eight percent. This gain of 600 workers reflects the over-the-year gain in the rig count. All other major industries were at or below year ago levels.

LOW UNEMPLOYMENT RECORDED IN ALBANY AND TETON COUNTIES

The Laramie Wyoming area, Albany County, sustained by a public sector dominated workforce, around 40 percent of all workers, had a 3.2 percent unemployment rate in May. The Jackson Wyoming area, fueled by a tourist boom, came in next at 3.5 percent. Teton County also continued with the largest annual worker gain in the entire state.

No double-digit unemployment was recorded in the state in May. Fremont and Carbon counties had the highest unemployment at 7.5 and 7.4 percent. Natrona County retained the largest number of jobseekers, over 1,800, with unemployment of 6.1 percent. Laramie County followed with almost 1,600 looking for work, representing 4.3 percent of the labor force. Every county in the state registered fewer jobseekers than a year ago.

COUNTIES WITH FLUCTUATIONS OF 300 OR MORE WORKERS

When comparing Wyoming's Fourth Quarter 1987 average monthly covered employment to last year, there were five counties with fluctuations of 300 or more workers:

Lincoln County's loss of 894 was primarily due to 750 fewer workers in Construction. Exxon's La Barge project has been completed since Third Quarter 1986.

Sweetwater County had an employment loss of 603 which was a three percent decrease from a year ago. This was primarily due to 221 loss of workers in Construction, an 181 loss in Retail Trade, and a 135 loss in Transportation, Communication, & Public Utilities.

Laramie County's loss of 434 workers was due to decreases of 294 in Construction, 234 in Public Administration, and 127 in Retail Trade. These losses were offset by a 333 employee increase in Services.

Teton County gained 523 employees. This was primarily due to increases of 203 in Services and 126 in Retail Trade.

Fremont County gained 326 workers, primarily due to increases of 194 in Services, 124 in Manufacturing, and 57 in Construction.

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

The cost of living in Casper, Wyoming is low in comparison to 255 other cities across the U.S. according to the First Quarter 1988 results of the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) Cost of Living Index, which pegged Casper's all item index at 88.2. In contrast, the U.S. average was 100.0 and the highest U.S. city in the survey was Boston, Massachusetts with an index of 157.6. Casper's all item index was slightly higher than the lowest index of 83.7 at Kennett, Missouri.

Casper was below the U.S. average in all components except health care. Both housing and utility costs were low, while groceries, transportation, and miscellaneous were about average with cities elsewhere in the U.S.

Casper's housing index of 67.4 was the lowest of any city in the survey. The housing component includes three items, the monthly rent of a two bedroom apartment, the total purchase price of a home, and the monthly payment of a house. The purchase price of homes in Casper have been on a steady decline since the energy bust. For example, while an average house (1,800 sq. ft. living area and 10,000 sq. ft. lot) in Casper would go for \$62,333, the same house would fetch \$94,236 on average in the U.S. and \$272,050 in Boston, Massachusetts according to the ACCRA survey.

AVERAGE PRICE OF HOUSE

FIRST QUARTER	CASPER	U.S. AVERAGE
1982	\$82,500	\$78,460
1983*	84,833	78,836
1984	68,333	81,855
1985	77,500	83,695
1986	73,533	84,631
1987	69,500	89,163
1988	\$62,333	\$94,436

*Second quarter substitution

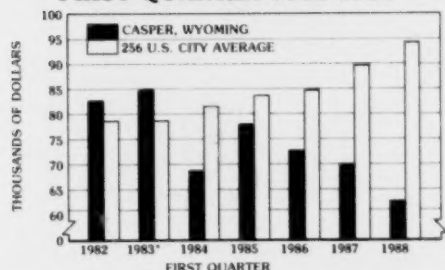
Source: ACCRA Inter-City Cost of Living Index

ACCRA* COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS – FIRST QUARTER 1988

	ALL ITEMS	GROC- ERIES	HOUSING	UTIL- ITIES	TRANSP.	HEALTH CARE	MISC.
Component Index Weights	100%	17%	20%	11%	13%	7%	30%
U.S. Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wyoming Cities:							
Casper	88.2	99.4	67.4	69.6	86.4	109.3	99.7
Neighboring Cities:							
Missoula, MT	95.8	103.2	71.2	89.9	100.4	114.4	105.4
Denver, CO	102.3	90.8	120.4	90.9	105.6	111.3	96.1
Omaha, NE	92.9	91.3	93.8	78.9	100.9	91.7	95.2
Rapid City, SD	97.7	105.0	89.2	109.7	87.3	107.5	97.4
Salt Lake City, UT	98.3	93.5	89.4	95.8	101.4	103.1	105.9
Highest U.S. City	157.6	136.7	288.5	191.7	129.3	196.4	129.4
	Boston	Anchorage	Boston	New York	Hartford	Juneau	Anchorage
	MA	AK	MA	NY	CT	AK	AK
Lowest U.S. City	83.7	87.7	67.4	62.4	78.6	70.3	84.8
	Kennett	Canton	Casper	Seattle	Nevada	McMinnville	Canton
	MO	OH	WY	WA	MO	TN	OH

Source: ACCRA*, American Chamber of Commerce Research Association

ACCRA** WYOMING AND U.S. 256 CITY AVERAGE TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE HOME PURCHASE¹ FIRST QUARTER 1982-1988



* Second quarter was substituted because Casper did not participate first quarter, 1983.

** American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association

¹ 1,800 sq. ft. living area new house, approx. 10,000 sq. ft. lot, urban area with all utilities.

Prepared by W.E.S.C., Research and Analysis, July 1988.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS PLANS INDUSTRIAL CODE REVISION

The Standard Industrial Classification Code (SIC) is the statistical identification system underlying all establishment-based Federal/State economic data in the U.S. From time-to-time it must be revised to reflect the economy's changing industrial composition and organization.

Beginning in early 1984, representatives from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) along with representatives from 18 other Federal agencies developed a revised SIC coding system. The group is known as the Technical Committee on Industrial Classification, reviewed proposals for over 1,100 individual changes.

In performing their work, the committee had two major goals. The first was to develop a classification system that accurately reflects this country's current economy (i.e., technological changes; recent institutional changes such as deregulation in banking, communications, and transportation industries; and the tremendous expansion in the service sector). The second goal was to create a classification system that could be implemented in statistical programs at a reasonable cost.

The 1987 SIC revision will create a net increase of 19 industries for services, eight for wholesale trade, and seven for manufacturing, with a net decrease of 34 for the other SIC divisions. Deleted industries were merged into other industries and new industries were created by subdividing or restructuring existing ones. Various industry classifications were also changed by transfers of individual activities, primarily to increase data classification accuracy, consistency, and usefulness, or by renumbering to change the existing three-digit structure.

It is expected that the 1987 SIC revision will not be as burdensome to implement in terms of workload nor as disruptive in terms of historical continuity of data, as was the case when the SIC was last revised in 1972.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1982-1984 = 100)

	ALL URBAN						
	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER- TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
May 1988	117.5	117.1	117.7	119.7	116.3	108.1	137.5
Annual % Change	3.9	3.4	3.6	4.3	4.7	3.2	6.4

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

**WYOMING
ECONOMIC INDICATORS**

ITEM	MAY	APR	MAY	Percent change From	
	1988 ¹	1988 ¹	1987 ²	A Month Ago	A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	233,057	229,766	248,037	1.4	- 6.0
Unemployment	13,044	14,946	20,947	- 12.7	- 37.7
Employed Labor Force	220,013	214,820	227,090	2.4	- 3.1
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law) ³	167,500	162,500	173,023	3.1	- 3.2
b. Agriculture ³	13,661	12,944	11,997	5.5	13.9
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	5.6% 5.7% *	6.5% 5.8% *	8.4% 8.6% *	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	5.4% 5.6% *	5.3% 5.4% *	6.1% 6.3% *	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) ⁴	2.3%	3.0%	3.3%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$ 617.02	\$ 662.12	\$ 610.24	- 6.8	1.1
Average Weekly Hours	42.7	44.2	40.2	- 3.4	6.2
Average Hourly Earnings	\$ 14.45	\$ 14.98	\$ 15.18	- 3.5	- 4.8
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	19,394	23,247	27,153	- 16.6	- 28.6
a. Initial	1,936	2,785	2,604	- 30.5	- 25.7
Weeks Compensated	13,029	18,318	25,213	- 28.9	- 48.3
Total Amount Benefits Paid	\$ 1,939,046	\$ 2,795,259	\$ 3,953,439	- 30.6	- 51.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	\$ 148.50	\$ 152.28	\$ 156.51	- 2.5	- 5.1
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	N.A.	N.A.	3,702	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Openings Received	N.A.	N.A.	3,242	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Placements	N.A.	N.A.	2,464	XXX	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	\$ 531.27	\$ 538.42	\$ 530.00	- 1.3	0.2
Average Weekly Hours	42.4	42.8	42.4	- 0.9	0.0
Average Hourly Earnings	\$ 12.53	\$ 12.58	\$ 12.50	- 0.4	0.2
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84 = 100	117.5	117.1	113.1	0.3	3.9
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84 = 100	106.5	105.8	102.6	0.7	3.8
Food and Beverage 1982-84 = 100	117.1	116.7	113.2	0.3	3.4

¹ Preliminary. ² Final. ³ Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. ⁴ Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT
(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	MAY 1988	APR 1988	MAY 1987	%CHANGE APR-MAY	%CHANGE MAY-MAY	MAY 1988	APR 1988	MAY 1987	MAY 1988	APR 1988	MAY 1987
Statewide	233,057	229,766	248,037	1.4	- 6.0	13,044	14,946	20,947	5.6	6.5	8.4
Statewide Seasonally adjusted									5.7	5.8	8.6
Albany	16,127	16,250	16,187	- 0.8	- 0.4	521	601	757	3.2	3.7	4.7
Big Horn	4,826	4,812	5,022	0.3	- 3.9	343	428	554	7.1	8.9	11.0
Campbell	14,806	14,938	16,533	- 0.9	- 10.4	953	999	1,669	6.4	6.7	10.1
Carbon	7,798	7,597	8,261	2.6	- 5.6	580	642	741	7.4	8.5	9.0
Converse	5,483	5,408	6,212	1.4	- 11.7	358	444	614	6.5	8.2	9.9
Crook	3,372	3,175	3,357	6.2	0.4	168	191	250	5.0	6.0	7.4
Fremont	15,567	15,554	16,679	0.1	- 6.7	1,170	1,364	1,724	7.5	8.8	10.3
Goshen	6,346	6,467	6,578	- 1.9	- 3.5	337	451	447	5.3	7.0	6.8
Hot Springs	3,103	3,118	3,144	- 0.5	- 1.3	146	137	216	4.7	4.4	6.9
Johnson	3,519	3,419	3,583	2.9	- 1.8	171	202	315	4.9	5.9	8.8
Laramie	35,889	35,931	36,997	- 0.1	- 3.0	1,559	1,766	2,157	4.3	4.9	5.8
Lincoln	6,170	6,012	7,043	2.6	- 12.4	447	475	769	7.2	7.9	10.9
Natrona	30,305	30,111	32,628	0.6	- 7.1	1,843	2,015	3,409	6.1	6.7	10.4
Niobrara	2,018	1,938	1,846	4.1	9.3	74	94	109	3.7	4.9	5.9
Park	13,256	12,297	13,671	7.8	- 3.0	651	764	978	4.9	6.2	7.2
Platte	4,613	4,550	4,660	1.4	- 1.0	234	282	325	5.1	6.2	7.0
Sheridan	11,975	11,959	13,005	0.1	- 7.9	592	652	964	4.9	5.5	7.4
Sublette	2,596	2,517	3,131	3.1	- 17.1	171	210	375	6.6	8.3	12.0
Sweetwater	18,222	18,119	21,064	0.6	- 13.5	1,262	1,444	2,109	6.9	8.0	10.0
Teton	9,591	8,499	9,086	12.8	5.6	338	471	439	3.5	5.5	4.8
Uinta	9,381	9,098	10,850	3.1	- 13.5	664	820	1,263	7.1	9.0	11.6
Washakie	4,766	4,682	4,886	1.8	- 2.5	311	306	460	6.5	6.5	9.4
Weston	3,332	3,318	3,613	0.4	- 7.8	153	188	303	4.6	5.7	8.4
United States									5.4	5.3	6.1
United States Seasonally adjusted									5.6	5.4	6.3

*The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING ¹

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Table 3

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	MAY 1988 ²	APR 1988 ³	MAY 1987	APR 1988	MAY 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to MAY 1988	to MAY 1988
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	177.6	174.7	180.2	1.7	- 1.4
Manufacturing	8.0	7.9	7.6	1.3	5.3
Durable Goods	3.8	3.7	3.5	2.7	8.6
Nondurable Goods	4.2	4.2	4.1	0.0	2.4
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	169.6	166.8	172.6	1.7	- 1.7
Mining	17.4	17.2	16.8	1.2	3.6
Contract Construction	8.7	7.8	11.2	11.5	- 22.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	12.7	12.6	12.7	0.8	0.0
Railroad Transportation	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Transportation except Railroads	4.7	4.7	4.8	0.0	- 2.1
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.0	6.0	6.0	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	39.0	38.7	39.8	0.8	- 2.0
Wholesale Trade	6.7	6.7	6.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	32.3	32.0	33.1	0.9	- 2.4
Food Stores	4.8	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.1	5.0	5.3	2.0	- 3.8
Eating & Drinking Places	12.2	12.0	12.3	1.7	- 0.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.2	7.2	7.5	0.0	- 4.0
Services	31.9	31.0	31.8	2.9	0.3
Personal Services	1.9	1.8	1.8	5.6	5.6
Medical & Other Health Services	7.7	7.7	7.8	0.0	- 1.3
Government	52.7	52.3	52.8	0.8	- 0.2
Federal Government	7.6	7.4	7.4	2.7	2.7
State & Local Government	45.1	44.9	45.4	0.4	- 0.7
State Government	13.3	13.3	13.4	0.0	- 0.8
Local Government	31.8	31.6	32.0	0.6	- 0.6

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING ¹

Table 3 (Cont'd)

(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	MAY 1988 ²	APR 1988 ³	MAY 1987	APR 1988	MAY 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to MAY 1988	to MAY 1988
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	26.0	26.0	26.7	0.0	- 2.6
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	24.7	24.7	25.5	0.0	- 3.1
Mining	2.5	2.5	2.4	0.0	4.2
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.3	2.3	2.2	0.0	4.6
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.2	1.1	1.6	9.1	- 25.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.8	7.8	7.7	0.0	1.3
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.5	5.5	5.4	0.0	1.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	- 6.7
Services	5.3	5.3	5.4	0.0	- 1.8
Government	4.8	4.9	5.2	- 2.0	- 7.7
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	- 14.3
State & Local Government	4.2	4.3	4.5	- 2.3	- 6.7
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.7	29.8	30.4	- 0.3	- 2.3
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.6	28.7	29.3	- 0.4	- 2.4
Contract Construction	1.8	1.8	2.0	0.0	- 10.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.4	2.4	2.4	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.0	7.0	6.9	0.0	1.4
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.3	6.3	6.2	0.0	1.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	- 5.3
Services & Miscellaneous	5.7	5.7	5.8	0.0	- 1.7
Government	9.9	10.0	10.3	- 1.0	- 3.9
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.8	0.0	- 3.6
State & Local Government	7.2	7.3	7.5	- 1.4	- 4.0

¹ Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. ² Subject to revision. ³ Revised figures.

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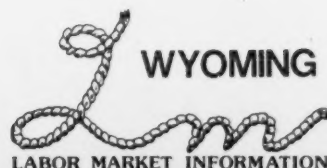
WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* is published monthly by the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission.

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